

# MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Special Meeting

Lansing, Michigan

February 1, 2022

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Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC) met at the Office of Aeronautics, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan, on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Note: This was a special meeting called due to the scheduled January meeting being canceled.

## COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Russ Kavalhuna, Chair  
Kelly Burris, Vice Chair  
F/Lt. Brian Bahlau, Designee Michigan State Police  
Benjamin Carter, Commissioner  
Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner  
Brig. Gen, Bryan Teff, Designee MDMVA  
Laura Mester, Designee MDOT  
Kevin Jacobs, Designee MDNR  
Mike Trout, Director  
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor

## COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Rick Fiddler, Commissioner  
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst

## I. OPENING REMARKS

The February 1, 2022, special MAC meeting was officially called to order by Chair Russ Kavalhuna at 10:01 am.

Chair Russ Kavalhuna began by explaining the January meeting was cancelled for a lack of quorum due to COVID-19 exposures and quarantine. He thanked the Commission for their understanding of the late cancellation and gave appreciation to all for coming together on short notice for this special meeting.

Chair Kavalhuna asked for a formal roll call. Roll call was taken. It was announced eight (8) Commissioners were present for a quorum.

## II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

### A. Minutes of the November 17, 2021 Meeting

Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on November 17, 2021. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Ben Carter and seconded by Commissioner Brian Smith to approve the minutes as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Kavalhuna announced the motion is carried.**



**B. 2022 MAC Revised Meeting Schedule**

Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any corrections or changes to the revised schedule, noting the date for July's meeting changed to July 20 due to Commissioner conflicts.

Chair Kavalhuna then asked for a motion to approve the proposed revised schedule. The motion was moved by Commissioner Bryan Teff and seconded by Commissioner Ben Carter to approve the revised 2022 MAC schedule as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Kavalhuna announced the motion is carried.**

**C. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds**

Chair Kavalhuna called on Alissa VanHoof, who then presented the Air Service Program Grants and Airport Sponsor Contracts.

**Air Service Program Grants  
(Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Training)**

1. Executive Airport at Kellogg Field (BTL), Battle Creek
2. Willow Run Airport (YIP), Detroit
3. Delta County Airport (ESC), Escanaba
4. Bishop International Airport (FNT), Flint
5. Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR), Grand Rapids
6. Houghton County Memorial Airport (CMX), Hancock
7. Ford Airport (IMT), Iron Mountain
8. Gogebic-Iron County Airport (IWD), Ironwood
9. Kalamazoo International Airport (AZO), Kalamazoo
10. Capital Region International Airport (LAN), Lansing
11. Blacker Airport (MBL), Manistee
12. Sawyer International Airport (SAW), Marquette
13. Muskegon County Airport (MKG), Muskegon
14. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County (PLN), Pellston
15. Oakland County International Airport (PTK), Pontiac
16. MBS International Airport (MBS), Saginaw
17. Chippewa County International Airport (CIU), Sault Ste. Marie
18. Cherry Capital Airport (TVC), Traverse City

**Airport Sponsor Contracts**

1. Wexford County Airport (CAD), Cadillac
2. Grand Haven Memorial Airpark (3GM), Grand Haven
3. Hastings Airport (9D9), Hastings
4. Jackson County Reynolds Field (JXN), Jackson
5. Jack Barstow Airport (IKW), Midland
6. Mt. Pleasant Municipal Airport (83D), Mt. Pleasant
7. Mackinac County Airport (Y83), St. Ignace



8. Sandusky City Airport (Y83), Sandusky
9. South Haven Area Regional Airport (LWA), South Haven

Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any further comments or questions. There were none.

Chair Kavalhuna then asked for a motion to approve the transfers as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Kevin Jacobs and seconded by Commissioner Ben Carter to approve the transfers as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Kavalhuna announced the motion is carried.**

A complete list of contract descriptions can be viewed at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero) under the Commission tab.

### III. REPORTS

#### A. MAC Director's Report

Chair Kavalhuna called on Director Trout who then presented his report.

Director Trout began with a federal stimulus update summarizing as follows:

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act [www.faa.gov/airports/cares\\_act](http://www.faa.gov/airports/cares_act) = \$256,958,769 to 94 eligible airports.
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) [www.faa.gov/airports/crrsaa/](http://www.faa.gov/airports/crrsaa/) = \$55,841,582 to 92 eligible airports. MDOT Aeronautics is now processing agreements and reimbursement requests.
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) [www.faa.gov/airports/airport\\_rescue\\_grants/](http://www.faa.gov/airports/airport_rescue_grants/) = \$169,677,474 to 92 eligible airports. This funding was appropriated by Governor Whitmer on December 21, 2021.

Director Trout then discussed the newest federal stimulus titled the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL). He stated nationwide allocations can be found at [https://www.faa.gov/sites/faa.gov/files/2021-12/BIL\\_allocations\\_20211216\\_0.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/sites/faa.gov/files/2021-12/BIL_allocations_20211216_0.pdf) And includes \$25 billion over five years for aviation system and airport infrastructure upgrades. Governor Whitmer has created the Michigan Infrastructure Office to ensure IIJA/BIL resources are used effectively. More information on IIJA/BIL will be shared in future meetings as it becomes available.

Director Trout shared the current aviation gallons and credits, noting an increase of 12,589,573 total gallons or +38.85% from fiscal year (FY) 2021 and an increase of 9,728,715 total credits or +45.93% from FY 2021.

Director Trout next shared the latest excise tax revenue of \$1,191,052 and sales tax revenue of \$678,183 year to date for FY 2022.

Director Trout highlighted the following legislative news:

- USDOT Inspector General will be launching a CARES Act audit. Airports are advised to stay tuned and keep copies of everything related to federal stimulus spending.
- Michigan Senate Bill 795 introduced which would create a 25-member Advanced Air Mobility Study Committee. MDOT Aeronautics will meet with the Senate representatives to discuss this action further in the upcoming weeks.
- Michigan Senate Bill 796 introduced which would amend the Michigan Aeronautics Code to preempt local ordinances affecting advanced air mobility. MDOT Aeronautics will meet with the Senate representatives to discuss this action further in the upcoming weeks.
- FAA continues discussions with AT&T/Verizon on 5G rollout to find a final solution to mitigate aviation interference.
- Michigan Aeronautics Code updates are currently being worked on with MDOT Aeronautics and Michigan Legislature.

Director Trout gave an update on MDOT Aeronautics' Airport Loan Program, as required under Section 4, Public Act 107 of 1969. All loans remain in good standing with no new loans dispersed in FY 2021. Principal loan repayments of \$52,968.92 and interest payments of \$7,463.43 were received. The outstanding loan balance at the end of FY 2021 was \$172,880.23 with \$2,027,119.77 available for new loans.

Director Trout highlighted the new GA Terminal Building at the Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie (Note: During this presentation, this was inadvertently labeled the Delta County Airport in Escanaba and was corrected to the Chippewa County International Airport appropriately). This new terminal cost \$6,610,302 to complete with a tentative opening in 2023. Construction was done by Howard Immel Construction with work continuing through the winter on foundations, underground utilities, and elevator shaft. The Aero Project Manager was Jim Reverman.

Director Trout noted current year to date FY 2022 stats from the Office of Aeronautics which include 44 active design projects; 77 active construction projects; 9 active equipment acquisition projects; 21 Airport Layout Plan updates/planning studies under contract; 8 active land acquisition projects; 20 airport development projects environmentally cleared; 2,667 tall structure permits reviewed/processed; 93 compliance report cards updated; and 84 KMZ runway approach modes (22 airports) completed as preflight planning for unmanned aerial systems (UAS) missions..

Director Trout highlighted two current postings at MDOT Aeronautics – a UP Pilot/Inspector and an Aviation Electronics Technician. He then welcomed Aero's new Aircraft Mechanic, Jordan English, and congratulated current Aero



employees' Laura Wise and Ryan Markowski on their recent promotions to Finance and Operations Unit Supervisor and Grants Analyst, respectively. Finally, Director Trout congratulated former MAC Commissioner and Chair, and Oakland County Administrator, J. David Vanderveen, on his retirement after nearly 55 years of service in Michigan.

Director Trout highlighted the following current upcoming events:

- Michigan Airport Conference, February 16-17, Kellogg Hotel and Event Center, East Lansing
- US DOT Small Community Air Service Development Program new grant proposal applications due March 15.
- NASAO State Block Grant Convention, January 27-28, Durham, North Carolina.

Director Trout concluded his presentation with recognition of several newsworthy mentions:

- Capital Region International Airport (LAN) recently opened a free public viewing area [ICYM... - Lansing's Capital Region International Airport \(LAN\) | Facebook](#)
- Governor Whitmer announced air mobility corridor development in Michigan and Ontario <https://www.michiganbusiness.org/press-releases/2022/01/gov.-whitmer-announces-air-mobility-corridor-development-in-michigan-and-ontario>
- MDOT Aeronautics Deputy Administrator, Bryan Budds, discussed "What is an Aerial Mobility Corridor?" in MDOT's Talking Michigan podcast [Talking Michigan Transportation podcast](#)

#### **IV. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Chair Kavalhuna asked if any Commissioners would like to make a comment.

Commissioner Kevin Jacobs asked if there was an update on the changes to the Aeronautics Code and what the process for doing so was. Director Trout responded that Legislature had drafted changes which were now being reviewed by MDOT Aeronautics. The revisions would be discussed and once agreed upon, a formal introduction to change would be made, committee hearings scheduled, then a final approval given. This could still take quite some time to complete.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Kavalhuna asked if anyone would like to make a public comment. There were no public comments.

#### **CLOSING**

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at the Office of Aeronautics, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan.

Chair Fiddler thanked the Commissioners, Office of Aeronautics staff, and the public for their participation today, reminding everyone that information presented today could be found at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero) or by calling 517-335-9568.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Russ Kavalhuna, Chairman

Michael G. Trout, Director

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